THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced in Coffee Board during 1994. Requirement of pooling has been completely done away with from September, 1996.

(b) A total number 1494 have opted under the existing scheme and 1322 employees have been relieved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Readymade Garments

3232. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI MAHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of export of ready-made garments made during the current financial year and how does it compare with the last three year;

(b) whether the export of readymade garments has declined recently;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost to the export of readymade garments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total value of export of readymade garments made during the current financial year upto October 1996 and that made during the corresponding periods of the last three years have been as follows :

Period (April-October)	Value In million US Dollars
1993-94	1813.68
1994-95	2264.28
1995-96	2243.51
1996-97	2553.73

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to boost the exports of garments, Governments have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw material for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

3233. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to modify Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Major changes in FERA were carried out vide Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1993 (29 of 1993). A review of FERA was initiated in 1992 by setting up a Task Force. Further changes, if any may also be considered in due course.

Double Taxation on Dividend

3234. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to scrap double taxation on dividend; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Various policy measures are considered by the Government as apart of the budgetary exercise every year and the new decisions are reflected in the budget documents.

Liberalisation of Restrictions in Indo-Bangladesh Trade

3235. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed to liberalise trade restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main items and areas on which trade restrictions have been liberalised;

(c) whether this removal of restrictions have been proved helpful to both countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Both India and Bangladesh are members of SAARC

Preferental Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). Under the first round of SAPTA, tariff concessions have been exchanged between India and Bangladesh on items of their export interest. India has given concessions on 106 tariff lines to the SAARC member countries including Bangladesh and these have become operational with effect from 7.12.1995. With a view to enhance the trade, further tariff concessions are being exchanged under the second round of SAPTA.

Boost to Economy

3236. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a two Pronged Action Plan

(i) to ensure price stability and;

(ii) to make available easy credit facilities, with a view to give a boost to economy and improve the growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved so far in achieving the said two objectives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The stance of monetary policy as announced by the Reserve Bank of India is to strive for money supply growth (M3) of 15.5.-16.0% in 1996-97 in order to meet the twin objectives of price stability and adequate credit availability for the growth of the economy. With this in view the RBI have taken a number of measures including step-wise reduction of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and setting a higher target (12% of net bank credit) for export finance by scheduled commercial banks.

As a result of these measures monetary growth is broadly on target, inflation is at 6.7% (as of November 23, 1996) and interest rates have come down to some extent.

Voters on Electoral Rolls

3237. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voters on the electoral rolls for Lok Sabha Elections in 1991 and 1996, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the States in which revision of the elctoral roll has been done during the period 1991-96

(c) whether there has been any abnormal increase or decrease in the number of elections in any State/ Union-Territory during the above period;

(d) the details of States in which it is proposed to have intensive revision of electoral roll with effect from 1st January, 1997 as the date of reference;

(e) the reasons for such intensive revision;

(f) whether the revision of electoral rolls is likely to cover all the States of the country; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (c). Statement I containing the requisite information is attached. The percentage of increase/decrease in the number of electors in respect of each State/Union territory is also indicated therein.

(b) The requisite information is contained in the attached statement-II.

(d), (f) to (g). The Commission has already ordered intensive revision of electoral rolls in Assam and summary revision in Punjab with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date. No decision has yet been taken by the Commission for revision or otherwise of electoral rolls in respect of other States/Union territories with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date.

(e) An intensive revision is taken to keep the electoral rolls up-to-date.

STATEMENT-I

Name of State/ Union Territory	Year of Revision	Electorate			Percentage of Increase/ Decrease
		Men	Women	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1991	21387877	21230096	42617973	16.15%
	1996	24735268	24766006	49501274	
Arunachal Pradesh	1991	279371	239944	519315	4.84%
	1996	288673	255767	544440	
Assam	1991	6472042	5401910	11873952	6.01%
	1996	6670161	5917498	12587659	
Bihar	1991	26944010	23509637	50453647	15.83%
	1996	31012536	27425781	58438317	